EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

TERMS cash in advance. Money sent by mail will beatthe tok of the sender. None but Bank bills current to None Fork THE DAILY HERALD. (too cent sper copy. \$7 per annum.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway .- MISCHIEF MAKING-WINTER GARDEN, Broadway .- THE BELLE OF THE WALLACK'S THEATRE, No. 844 Broadway .- HONEY

LAURA KRENE'S THEATRE, Broadway .- THE MA-NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.-Russian Boy

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery STICKNIY'S NATIONAL BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway, Com NUTT-LIVING HIPPOPOTAMUS, WHALE, AC. at all hours,— SADAK AND KALANADO, SECTION AND CORDER.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broad HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS, Stuyvesant Institute, No. 659

MELODEON CONCERT HALL, 539 Broadway. - Songs,

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 585 Broadway. - Songs DANGES, BURLESQUES, &C. - INAUGURITION BALL, GAIETIES CONCERT ROOM, 616 Broadway. - DRAWING ROOM EMPERTAINMENTS. BALLETS, PANTONINES, FARCES, &C. AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 444 Broadway.-UNBULY

CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Bowery. PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway.-

NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 616 Broadway.-BUBLESC

New York, Friday, March 14, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

Everything continues quiet in the vicinity of Manassas. A masked battery, mounting three guns, was discovered on Wednesday, on the Warrenton turnpike, between Centreville and Bull run. The rebels it appears, resorted to the vandalism of poisoning the wells before their departure. Two men, attached to a Wisconsin regiment, of General Smith's division, were poisoned yesterday by partaking of the water. Orders have accordingly been issued prohibiting soldiers from using the old wills in the vicinity, and new ones are being

The rebel batteries on the Lower Potomac continue to be examined by our officers, and the guns not destroyed by the enemy are being disabled as far as possible.

By our intelligence from Winchester there is little doubt that the rebel forces under Jackson have retired to Strasburg, in which direction heavy firing was heard at noon yestesday, indicating that the fugitives were blowing up the stone bridge over Cedar creek, to prevent pursuit. It was reported by some prisoners that the rebels intended to make a stand at Strasburg, but it was stated by others that Jackson will post off for Richmond, when the news of the evacuation of Manassas reaches him.

Our troops were received with the utmost enth siasm by the people of Winchester. The regiments as they entered the town were loudly cheered from the houses, and they replied warmly to the greeting.

The accounts of the late naval achievement at Newport's News, which we give to-day, together with a map of the battle ground, will be found highly interesting. They comprise the official reports of Captain Van Brunt, of the Minnesota, and Captain Watson, of the gunboat Dragon. The rehel story of the fight, as furnished by the rebei journals, and the editorial comments thereon, we give in another column, and they will be read with considerable interest. The Monitor is represented as disabled, which we know is not the fact, and the disasters to the "Yankee" fleet are painted in terms of horror quite congenial to the rebel

Our despatches from Fortress Monroe yesterday, state that the Merrimac is affoat at the Norfolk Navy Yard, and a large force of workmen is employed in repairing her. Serious damage was done to one of her prongs, and the forward part of the vessel was stove in.

By a despatch from Cairo we learn that the protection of Memphis seems to engage the serious attention of the rebels. General Bragg has arrived there from Pensacola, with a force of 10,000 men. and it was thought that they were sent forward to reinforce New Madrid and Island No. 10, at which latter point all the rebel gunboats are concentrated under the famous Captain Hollins. Generals Bragg and Beauregard were said to be at Jackson, Tennessee, where they are erecting strong fortifications. Memphis is reported in a state of anarchy. The citizens are flying from there, and cotton, molasses, sugar, and other merchandise were being shipped South. Such was the insubordination of the citizens that martial law was proclaimed in Memphis on Monday last, in order to compel the people to turn out and fight.

We give sketches to-day of the Union officers engaged in the late battle at Paris, Tenn., where our forces defeated the rebels, six hundred strong' and took possession of the town on the morning of the 12th inst. General Halleck's official report of the battle puts down the loss of the enemy at one hundred killed, wounded and prisoners. General Halleck also reports the defeat of one of Price's guerrilla parties near Lebanon, Mo., in which the rebel commander, General Campbell, and one hundred others were captured, thirteen killed and five wounded.

The schooner A. H. Manchester, Capt. Nickerson, arrived at this port last evening, from Pope creek, S. C., and Port Royal, making the passage in six days. She brings 3,000 bales of cotton and sixty-seven hides, consigned to Hiram Barney, Esq., Collector at this port. Her news is unimportant. Nothing of any moment had transpired since the sailing of the Philadelphia and Oriental, whose news we predicted a few days ago. Everything remained quiet, and the condition of the troops was about the same, being in good health and fine spirits.

We give to-day full particulars of the battle near Fort Craig, New Mexico, on the 21st February, the results of which we published several days ago, and the skirmishes which preceded it on the 19th

and 20th. The death of Capt. McCrea, who died bravely, the last man at his guns, after more than half his command had been cut to pieces, is'a sublime instance of gallantry and devotion. The fight lasted the entire day, and resulted in a heavy loss on both sides. The Union army lost about two hundred, and the rebels a much larger number.

CONGRESS. In the Senate yesterday, the Naval Committee were instructed to prepare some fitting notice of the bravery of seaman John Davis, whose conduct was recently alluded to in terms of praise by Commodore Dupont in his official report. A resolution of inquiry of the Secretary of the Navy, with regard to the removal of the Naval Academy from Annapolis, Maryland, to Newport, Rhode Island, was offered by Senator Kennedy, of Maryand. The Senate voted thanks to Commodore Foote, of the Western Flotilla, and Lieutenant Worden, of the mail-clad steamer Monitor, and the officers and men under them, for their recent brilliant exploits. The resolution for the expulsion of Senator Powell, of Kentucky, was taken up, and Mr. Davis, of Kentuky, spoke at length in favor of it. He was interrupted by Senator Powell; but, without deciding the question, the Senate went into executive session, and subsequently ad-

In the House of Representatives, the thanks of the republic were voted to General Curtis and his officers and men for gallant conduct in their recent engagement with the rebels, and sympathy for the friends and relatives of the loval slain was expressed. The National Tax bill was then taken up, in Committee of the Whole House, and a long debate ensued, consuming the greater portion of the day's session and being participated in by various members. An amendment was adopted giving the franking privilege to the Internal Revenue commissioner, whose office the bill creates Another amendment, to allow each State to assume its quota of the tax, was one of the subjects of discussion in connection with the bill, which proposition was finally withdrawn, and, without taking definite action, the committee rose. A bill was introduced from the Highways Committee providing for additional railway facilities between New York and Washington, and was sent back to the committee. The Judiciary Committee introduced a bill to provide for the discharge of State prisoners, which was recommitted, when the House WISCRITANEOUS NEWS

In the Senate of our State Legislature yesterday, the bill to amend the General Life and Health Insurance act was passed; also that permitting the Supervisors of New York to borrow money in anticipation of the tax. Petitions in favor of the Me tropolitan Health bill and the proposed liquor prohibition amendment to the constitution were presented. The resolutions on the latter subject were made the special order of business for Tuesday next, at twelve o'clock. A bill was introduced to amend the act in relation to the district courts of this city. Notice was given of a bill for a railroad in Twenty-sixth street. A communication was received from the State Comptroller giving the expenses of official advertising for the years 1860 and 1861. The bill to provide for sending convicts under twenty-one years of age to the penitentiaries was debated in Committee of the Whole, and progress reported. In the Assembly a resolution was adopted directing the State Engineer to prepare an estimate of the expenses of enlarging one tier of the Erie Canal locks to one hundred and fifty feet in length and twenty-five feet in width, so as to permit the passage of gunboats. Remonstrances against a railroad in Broadway were presented. The bill providing for the assumption by the State of its portion of the national tax was ordered to a third reading. A large portion of the day was consumed over subjects of only local interest.

The stock market opened weak yesterday morn ing, but gained strength as the day progressed, and closed very strong, with a general inquiry for the speculative railway shares-rumors being in circulation which led to the belief that the government is satisfied that the end of the war is close at hand. Money was easier than yesterday and six the general rate for call loans. Foreign exchange is dull at 12 a 1/2; gold quiet at about

101½.

The steam transport Ellen B. Terry, from Hatters Inlet, via Baltimore, where she landed two hundred and fifty furloughed sick and wounded solthis port yesterday.

Hon C H Van Wyck has been hard at work at the St. Nicholas Hotel during the last week investigating the amount of salaries and perquisites received by the government officials in this city Custom House officials have been wandering abo the corridors of the hotel in a state of great excitement, and, from what we can learn, the future action of the committee will tend still further to increase their perturbation.

A meeting of the Union Defence Committee body was called for yesterday, with a view to discussing of the resolutions adopted by the Cham ber of Commerce on last Wednesday. A quorum of the members not having attended, the matter has been indefinitely postponed.

A quorum not being present last evening at the Board of Aldermen, President Henry announced an adjournment to Monday next.

The Board of Councilmen met last evening, and transacted considerable routine business. The communication sent in by the Comptroller at the last meeting, relative to the city debt, taken up, and the resolution appended thereto unanimously adopted, which was, that the Comptroller be authorized and directed to apply to the Legislature for the pas sage of an act to reduce the taxation of the city of New York, by applying the surplus revenues of the sinking fund for the payment of the city debt The tax levy for 1862 was returned by the Alder men, with several amendments to the appropria tions made by the Councilmen, amounting in the aggregate to over a million of dollars. On motion the Board almost unanimously refused to concur with the Aldermen in the proposed additions to the Comptroller's estimates. Subsequently a resolution was adopted, requesting the Comptroller to petition the Legislature for the passage of an act authorizing the raising by tax, in a general manner, the amount which may be required to defray the necessary expenses for the current year. Thus it will be seen that the action which the Councilmen have taken in this matter will result in a material reduction of the tax levy for the

present year. Our commercial report from Barbados, W. I. dated at Bridgetown on the 19th of February, states that the market was fully supplied with every description of American produce, and sales of most articles were effected with difficulty. Flour ruled-extra Ohio \$6 02, extra Philadelphia \$6 12 a \$6 16 per barrel. Colonial Bank bills on

New York rated-ten days, five per cent, thirty days, four per cent premium. The cotton market was tame yesterday, while the sales, chiefly in small lots, footed up about 550 bales, within the range of 27c. a 28c. for middling uplands Some forced sales were reported a trifle under these figures. Large holders were not pressing sales. The flour market exhibited more animation, especially for com-mon to medium grades of Western, while prices for most kinds were unchanged. Wheat was heavy, and, in the absonce of sales of moment, quotations were nominal, Corn was more active at the recent concession, with sales of Western mixed at 58 kc. a 60c. Pork was un changed, while there was some more inquiry, especially for future delivery. Sales of new mess were made at \$13 50, new prime at \$10 62% a \$10 81%. Sugars were less active, but steady, with sales of about 300 bhds. and 40 boxes. Coffee was quiet for Rio. About 700 mats Java and 150 do. stained, were sold at rates given in another place. Freights were unchanged, and

Army Run to?

General McClellan is after Jeff. Davis and his runaway army. Where will they fly to? Where will the Confederate Congress find a place of safety? It is stated by a North Carolina paper that the seat of government is about to be removed from Richmond to Raleigh. But the question is whether the latter is not as much in danger from the operations of Burnside as Richmond s from our Army of the Potomac. If it should all back still further to Columbia, the capital of South Carolina, would its safety be long insured against the advancing column of Sherman? In Milledgeville or any other part of Georgia it would be equally imperilled. Should the rebel government return to the place whence it set out-Montgomery, Alabama-how long would it be safe there against the legions of Halleck moving up the Tennessee?

It was evident, from the desponding message of Davis to the Confederate Congress at Richmond, that he was sorely and sadly puzzled as to the course he ought to pursue; and in truth he had very good reason for his doubts and fears. Difficulties surrounded him on every side-Whether he fought, or ran away without fighting' his embarrassments were very great. If he held his ground at Richmond, and his army at Manassas gave battle, there could be no doubt that it would be defeated, and that he and his Cabinet, with the whole rebel Congress, would be bagged as game of the largest size. If he should retreat to the far South without a fight the demoralization of his Army of the Potomac would be as complete as that of his army in Kentucky and Tennessee. If it fought and was beaten, as it would be, and fell back southward, it would be also demoralized. In any event, the moral effect upon the Southern mind must be disastrons to the cause of the rebellion. As a choice of evils, the rebel President has deemed t better that his army should fall back from Managers believing discretion to be the better part of valor, and knowing that he who runs way may live to fight another day.

The Richmond Examiner says the receding novement of the rebel army from Centreville and the Upper Potomac is not on account of the pressure of General McClellan, but from purely strategical reasons, and that the new line of de fence will probably extend from Staunton to Gordonsville, and thence, we suppose, to Yorktown or Norfolk. But it is not at all likely that this line will be maintained longer than is necessary to give the robel President time to pack up his trunks and make his hegira to the far South, at a time that the migratory birds are beginning to move thence towards a colder latitude, and that the languishing Southern chivalry have heretofore sought the refreshing preezes of the North. The game is now up with him, no matter what he may do and no matter whether his army fights or not. The struggle is virtually over, and should there be another great conflict it will be a useless fight after other events had determined the fate of the war. There is nothing left, therefore, for Jeff. Davis but to move as rapidly as possible towards the tropics.

There are two or three roads still open to him. The shore or Atlantic coast line is already cut. His passage is blocked by that way. But he may escape through the Valley of Virginia by the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad to Chattanooga, provided Knoxville is not in the hands of the Union troops, and thence, if he is in time. he may reach Memphis, whence he could cross into Arkansas en roude for Texas; or, if it should be dangerous for him to proceed so far on that route as Memphis, in consequence of the extension of our military lines in that direction, he could turn down southward at Corinth or at the Grand Junction, through Mississippi to Louisiana and Texas; or he could fly from Chattanooga southward through Georgia and Alabama and thence across Mississippi and Louisiana to Texas; or he might escape by another rail-road route, from Richmond through North Carolina by way of Raleigh to Columbia, South Carolina. From Columbia he might proceed to Augusta, Georgia, and through that State to Southern Alabama, and thence to Texas. That route is still open; but if any point of the railroad between Columbia and Augusta should fall into the possession of Sherman's corps, or some portion the North Carolina road, by way of Raleigh, should be cut by Burnside, the fugitive would be estopped by that route. There is, however, another and a safer route through North Carolina, and that is from Richmond to Danville, Va., and thence by turnpike forty miles to Greensborough, in the centre of North Carolina. the terminus of the railroad to Columbia. South Carolina. This is the internal railroad route which the rebel Congress, on the advice of Jeff. Davis, has undertaken to complete by finishing the portion between Danville and Greensborough-a job which it is now entirely too

late to complete for any military purpose. This route would also bring him and his army to Texas, and thence way is open to Mexico, the only place where he would be tolerably safe. Let him hasten there with the utmost despatch to help the Mexicans to drive out the European coalition, and he may become President of Mexico or King instead of Maximilian. Such an anarchical government would just suit him and his turbulent followers.

THE TAX BILL-IT OUGHT TO BE PASSED IMME-DIATELY.-The Tax bill, which has been published, displays a remarkable amount of industry and sagacity, and it is, on the whole, as good a measure as could be expected under all the circumstances. Mr. Stevens and the other members of the Committee of Ways and Means have been unjustly assailed by journals in New York calling themselves republican, but sympathizing with secession and revolution. There might possibly be improvements made in a few of the details of the bill; but it is probable that, in waiting to improve some points; the bill might be altered for the worse in others. It would be endless to discuss all the details, and it would be productive of no good. Let the bill be passed, therefore, at once. The necessities of the government and the country require it. The people are in favor of it, and there are none to oppose it but the radical revolutiouary republican journals who desire to arrest the progress of the war and allow the Union to be permanently dissolved, or to revo-Intionize the government and introduce a reign of anarchy and disorder. The very crumbs that fall from our tables, the excess of meats cooked beyond what are required, the surplus cloths and useless ornaments worn by both sexes, together with extravagant; furniture, would more than pay the whole tax without its effects being felt by any person. But even if to know.

Where Will Jeff. Davis and the Rebel | we had to make sacrifices, let us consider the grandeur of the cause which demands them and every murmur shall be hushed.

> NEW IRON-CLAD VESSELS-OF-WAR. -- Sweet are the uses of adversity. The lesson taught by the late naval battles in Hampton Roads has not been thrown away upon the government or he country. We have lost some ships now, but the loss will prevent greater losses in the future. The Navy Department is awakened from its dream of false security. Already it has issued orders to clothe the new sloop-of-war Adirondack with iron mail. This fine vescel, with her armor on, will only draw thirteen feet of waer. We also perceive that the Committee on Naval Affairs in the Senate, who were before adverse to the proposition submitted to them of expending fifteen millions of dollars on iron plated vessels, on the ground that they were still an experiment, have suddenly changed their opinion, and will report in favor of the resolution. We have no doubt that the Senate itself and the other branch of the legislature will see the necessity of adopting it at once. With the Monitor and the mailed frigate now being fitted out at Philadelphia, the mailed frigate built at Mystic, Conn., and now being inished at Greenpoint, in this port, and the Adirondack, we shall soon have a force sufficient for the protection of our wooden walls till the new vessels ordered by Congress are ready for action, giving the government naval force with which it can sweep the seas and reduce the strongest fortifications. Every ship-of-war we have ought to be converted into a steamer and clad with iron, like the Merrimac. The old sailing vessels-of-war are sehind the age. Not only are wooden walls iseless against iron sides, but even stone walls nust succumb to such engines of destruction as the Merrimac and the Monitor. Our forts in future must be built of iron, and those now in ase must be plated with it like the new gunboats. Should war ever break out between this country and any of the great maritime Powers of Europe, we would immediately have brought to bear against us vessels like the Warrior or La Gloire, of the impregnable and destructive character of which we have just had a sample in the performances of the Merrimac. We have learned from our late experiences of these iron vessels, that they render the ordinary coast and river fortifications of but little use. Instead of lavishing money on the erection of granite forts and earthworks, it would be better for us for the future to spend it on the construction of iron-plated vessels and floating batteries like the Monitor, which, from its defeat of the rebel iron monster, we take to be the most perfect model of this kind of vessel now afloat. The subject is one that merits the attention of the States having a line of coast to defend. Our New York Legislature should immediately vote sum sufficient to build a large floating battery on the Ericsson pattern. Our citizens would have more confidence in it than in all the forts

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT CALLED TO ACCOUNT .-At the meeting of the New York Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday it was resolved "that in the opinion of this Chamber the chief cause of this disaster (the destruction of life and property committed by the rebel iron-clad steamer errimac in Hampton Roads) lies in the culpa ble neglect in which the naval defences of Hampton Roads were suffered to remain, after the knowledge of the near completion" of said rebel iron-clad steamer. This accusation is levelled at Secretary Welles, and we shall be glad to hear what defence he can advance against it. He was well informed of the intended experimental trip of the Merrimac; be knew that she was a dangerous customer; and if he could have done nothing else to render her perfectly harmless, he could have ordered the sinking of an old hulk or two in the narrow channel of Elizabeth river, which would have sufficed to shut up this deep draughted rebel monster in the harbor of Norfolk to the end of the war. If this simple contrivance has not yet entered the head of the venerable Secretary, we would call his attention to it. It may not yet be too late to lock up that rebel monster; otherwise she may slip out in the dark.

PILLOW AND FLOYD HUNG UP TO DRY .- Jeff. Davis, President and Commander-in-Chief of our Southern rebel confederation, has hung up Floyd and Pillow to dry. It will be remembered that Pillow was in the chief command at Fort Donelson when invested by General Grant: that Pillow, on finding the place too hot to be comfortable, desired to leave: and that Floyd, the second in command was of the same way of thinking; but that Buckner, the third in command, on being sounded, protested against the attempt to run away: and that, in this emergency, Pillow, with a small force, slipped off under cover of the night, turning over the chief command to Floyd, and that Floyd, with his immediate followers, joining Pillow, turned over the chief command to Buckner, and that thus poor Buckner was left to shift for himself.

Pillow and Floyd escaped, and made up a cock and bull story of their prowess, destroyed the bridges and other public property at Nashville, and then resumed their flight. But upon their own reports Jeff. Davis has condem them, suspended them, and hung them up to dry; and thus ends the military glory of the bombastic charlatan and blatherskite Pillow, and the pusillanimous thief and traitor Floyd.

KNOCKED IN THE HEAD-All our old fashion ed wooden vessels of war and all our stupendous and expensive old fashioned stone fortresses. A half dozen iron-clad vessels, of the style of the little Monitor, would be worth more to us now than all the other ships of the United States Navy, and a dozen of Ericsson's little revolving batteries on land and affoat would be worth more for the protection of the harbor of New York than all our forts, from Governor's Island to Sandy Hook and from Hell Gate to Montauk. Ericsson's impregnable battery marks the most important revolution in the art of war since the invention of gunpowder.

RED TAPE AND WROUGHT IRON SHOT .- It appears there were on board the Monitor, in her attack upon the Merrimac, fifty wrought iron shot of one hundred and sixty-eight pounds each, which Captain Ericsson believes would have reached the vitals of the rebel monster had they been tried; but that they were not tried because of an express interdict from the Ordnance Department. Red tape; old fogvism. But who authorized this extraordinary bit of red tape from Washington? Who should like OUR ARMY AT MANASSAS.

Masked Battery Found Near Bull Run.

THE WELLS POISONED BY THE REBELS.

The Old Wells Shut Up and New Ones Dug.

AFFAIRS AT WINCHESTER

UNION SENTIMENT OF THE CITIZENS.

The Retreat of the Rebels to Strasburg.

OPERATIONS ON THE LOWER POTOMAC.

AFFAIRS IN GEN. M'CLELLAN'S DEPARTMENT.

SPLENDID CONDITION AND ENTHUSIASM OF HIS GRAND ARMY-INCIDENTS OF THE OCCUPATION BY OUR ARMY.

Washington, March 13, 1862. Everything continues quiet in the vicinity of Fairfax with no change in the position of the troops. Multi-farious rumors, of course, prevail as to future move-

order of the President, relieving Gen. McClellan of all command of the army, except the Department of the him as a military loader, and assurance of his ability to take charge of the entire army, regret this diminution of his command, most of the troops are elated at having him as their sole and exclusive leader. With General to be sure and swift, and a brilliant future to await the

Colonel McQuade came very near being shot to-day while inspecting his regiment. One of the pieces, which proved to be loaded, discharged in his hand. The ball passed through the visor of his cap.

Wm. Tyler, private in company C, Fourth Michigan regiment, Colonel Woodbury, was accidentally shot this morning. A Minie musket ball passed through one leg and lodged in the knes of the other, causing a compound fracture of the bone.

Two men attached to a Wisconsin regiment in Genera

Smith's division were poisoned to-day by drinking water from a well that had been poisoned by the rebels. It is thought that neither will survive. The names of the poisoned men are Sergeant Cutts, company E, and private Williams, company K. Cutts served through the All the men have been prohibited drinking from old

wells, and new ones are being dug.

Major Larabee and Captain Nanevek, with an esc

twenty men, were the first of our troops who visited the Bull run battle field. I state this fact to set at rest the various claims set up for this honor. Among the tro-phies they secured were a rebel flag, several sheets of confederate postage stamps, and a schrapnel shell that had failed to explode. Brigade and regimental drills continue to-day, as here

It is said that a division drill and review will take

place to morrow.

The desire of officers and mon to visit Centreville, Bull run and Manassas increases. More visited those place

to-day than any day heretofore.

Several companies from Col. Averell's and Col. Gregg's cavalry regiments, of Gen. Fitzjohn Porter's division, were on a reconneissance this afternoon beyond Ma

The best judges who have inspected the quarters a and near Manassas declare that they would accom-modate one hundred and forty thousend men. The barracks have all been recently occupied, and that the army was not lacking for subsistence is proved by plenty of empty champagne and por-ter bottles and pickle jars left behind in the ampment. Many circumstances show conclusively to the mind of every vister there who knows anything of camp life, that the evacuation was made hastily. dreds of articles have been brought away as trophies diers if they had not been marched away upon short notice. Cooked victuals were found upon some of the tables, and all the quarters at Manassas had the appear ance of having been recently occupied and hastily aban

To-day a large number of soldiers went down to Manassas on foot to supply themselves with articles left by the rebels when they fled from their stronghold.

Last night eight contrabands came into the camp of the Sixth cavalry, who state that the rebel host was in great haste and confusion when they reached the vicinity o Rappahannock station. Their transport wagons were mired in the wet ground, and many of their teams were disabled. One of the contrabands said, "Massa, you might find some of dem horses alive and dying in de mud now if you go down dar."

ands of persons visited Centreville and Manassa to-day, to satisfy their curiosity respecting those famous localities. The Warrenton turnpike was lined with peo ple, on foot and horseback, officers, privates and civilians itary men are invariably struck on reaching Centre wills with the great natural strength of the position, and the scientific manner in which it was prepared for an at

Upon the ridge commanding the slope toward Fairfax, almost continuously by breastworks for infantry, com mand every point of approach, and extend two miles or more. The fortifications are lettered from A to I-nin in number. An attack upon them, when they were well defended, must have resulted in great slaughter.

These works were never provided with heavy guns

and the reason evidently was the impossibility of porting them across Bull run, Cub run, &c. The redoubts are provided with platforms for seig

guns, commanding every point and a railroad track to

It is evident that the work upon this track has been abandoned within ten days. Sleepers freshly laid, and timber freshly hewn, show that the work was in pro-

gress quite recently.

The quarters just vacated by the soldiers give abun dant evidence of having been occupied by a large force. The barracks were snugly built, and provided with huge fireplaces, as well as other arrangements for the comfort of the occupants. Their interior shows that they have all been occupied, and good judges say that the Centre ville quarters would accommodate about forty thousand men. Even the citizens of the place were never allowed to inspect the fortifications, showing the strict military

surveillance of the rebel officers. All along the fields between Contraville Heights and nassas there are evidences of camps. Tents baye been pitched in almost every field, and an immense number of permanent log dwellings are standing. In a by place near Bull run, below the Warrenton Pike, one hundred and fifty log dwellings had been occupied by cavalry. A negro who lives near the spot, and one of whose children was stolen by the troops when they retreated says they went away last Sunday afternoon.

It has been stated that Manassas was evacuated on Friday; but there are plenty of proofs that they did not

eave until Sunday. Letters were found in Manassas dated on Friday, March 7, one of which contains the following:- "We took our gams and carried all our ammunition to-day to Bull and pitched the balls and powder into the water and tell Andrew Lanbert that Coleman's company-one the ten batteries there-is ordered away; and they carried their ammunition to Bull run, and threw it into the water, too. We don't know where we shall go; but must keep writing to this place until I send word

pere we have gone to." A large number of shells have been found in the rebe magazines. They were neatly packed in fine seaweed, which is said to be an excellent plan to keep the powder ry and prevent premature explosions.

A BRILLIANT CAVALRY CHARGE.

CAMP OF THE LANCOLE CAVALRY, | FARREST COURT HOUSE, March 11, 1862.

harge Made by Fourteen of the Lincoln Cavalrins One Hundred and Fif'y of the Enemy's Infan Against One Hundred and Fify of the Enemy's Infan-try—A Desparate Fight—First Licutement H. B. Hidden Killed—Bravery of Corporal Eugene Lewis, a Washing-tom Market Butcher Boy—The Troops Kill Three, Wound Five, and Take Bleven Rebels Prisoners—The Remaining Rebels Retreat Rapidly, dc., dc. Two days of excitement and the menotony of camp life on the Potomac is broken. Companies A and H of the Lincoln cavalry were on Saturday ordered to proceed to Burk's Station (your readers all know where that is) and

Burk's Station (your readers all know where that is) and Burk's Station (your readers all know where that is) and guard a portion of the railroad and a bridge, then beins' refaired by a body of laborers. On Sunday morning General Kearney and his brigade pushed forward to the same point, feeling his way into the enemy's country. The enemy's scouts were hovering about in the picinity, was evident that we were close upon posts. About eleven o'clock General Kearney ordered achment of fourteen men of the Lincoln cavalry, under mand of Lieutenaut Hidden, to advance to a certain kept up with the cavalry, which soon came upon one o the enemy's supports, where about one fifty of his infantry were posted. Seeing the cavalry advancing, the enemy quickly formed and commenced firing, the arms used being Kentucky rifles. The tempts tion for a dash on the part of the cavalry now became irresistible. Quickly Licutenant Hidden told off his men, and, placing himself at their head, dashed down upon the rebels at full speed, cheering and shouting to his men as he went. A majority of the robels, aston-ished at the intrepidity of the charge, took to their heels and scampored off in true Virginia style. The rest fought desperately. Lieutecant Hidden fell from his horse dead. A rifle ball entered his left shoulder, curved through his neck, and came out at the check, killing him almost instantly. Lieutenant Hidden was a brother-in-law of William Webb, the colebrated shipbuilder of New York. He was a young man of fine personal appearance, brave as a lion, and much beloved by both officers and men, who deeply regret his loss. To the former he was a lways the courteous gentleman; to the latter he was a true friend. Corporal Engage Lowis now took command, and the light became even more desperate. Soveral of our men had their horses killed, and were forced to engage the enemy hand to hand. Corporal Lawis, dismounted, cheered his men on, lighting himself like a tiger, killing two of the enemy and wounding a third. Some of these rebels had resolved to die rather than be taken prisoners, and on refusing to surrender had to be brought to their senses by a pistel shot. One fought until deprived oi his rills and bayonet, and then draw one of the strangest looking bowie knives and continued to defend himself in the most desperate manner until despatched by a ball from a revolver. His weapons are now trophies in the hands of the trooper who proved his victor. The whole thing was done quickly and well. We killed three, wounted five and made prisoners of eiseven, who were marched off before their fleeing comrades had time to recover themselves. Corporal Lowis, seeing one of the rebell ieutenants at a distance, heading south, mounted Lieutenant Hidden's horse and went in pursuit. He soon overtook and bagged the game, who turned out to be about as sorry a looking specimen of the reduced chivalry as you ever saw—a real whiskey drinker and tobacco grinder. The F. F. V. had serious objections to being taken prisoner, or rather, as he said, "surrendering to a corporal." A few raps with the back of the corporal's sabre on the rebel's shoulders soon brought him to his senses and lowered his de and scampered off in true Virginia style. The rest fought desperately. Lieutenant Hidden fell from his

DEATH OF LIEUT. HARRY B. HIDDEN, OF THE LINCOLN CAVALRY.

The following letters relative to the death of Lieutenant Hidden, who fell while charging so gallantly on the rebels

CANY KRANNEY, FAIRFAX SEM MARY, March 11, 1862.

DAM COLOME:—I have just reached camp. The new of Hidden's death touched my feelings deeply. His bodies been carefully laid out and covered with the flag cast country. I am aware that the regiment was just caving camp for the onward movement when his remain were brought in, and hence the officers were deprived crying public expression of the high eateem in which the much needed to the hearts and minds of his many re-tives and friends in New York. Very respectfully, yo F. C. ADAMS, Captain.

iend,

COLONEL M'REYNOLDS' REPLY.

HEADQUARTERS FREST NEW YORK CAVALRY, FARRYAX COURT HOUSE, VA., March 11, 1862.

MY DEAR ADARS—I received your favor, and feel much bliged for your kind suggestions. We all regret that he exigencies of the service compelled us to forget for moment the observance (by action) of that respect the to the noble young fellow who foll so gloriously under the field. But I assure you none of us feit the less of he brave and gallant Hidden the less on that account is charge, at the head of twelve men, against one hundand fifty of the enemy's infantry, and the capture of more than their own number of prisoners, including a suttenant (a West Point cadet), was one of tha most is ting, for His charge, at the head of twelve men, against one I dred and fifty of the ensemy's infantry, and the cap of more than their own number of prisoners, includit lieutenant (a West Point cadet), was one of the n brilliant dashes on record. General Kearney says it one of the boldest dashes he ever winess-d; and we more could be said, coming from his high officers are so much separated on duty—some Manassas, some at Centreville, some on duty hear, are that it would be impossible to get it together at this time. You are deputed to draft restones as their sentiments, and I best to assure you tions as their sentiments, and I beg to assure you that you cannot speak in too strong language of the merits of the deceased. He was the periection of homor, of chivalry and courage—a gentleman, in every sense of the word, in all his relations; and his death, although he died so nobly and in such a glorious cause, is a matter of the most profound regret to all officers and men of my regiment. I feel individually that I have lost a true and reliable friend in the field, and his country one of less than the control of the regiment. His relatives command our most here of the regiment. His relatives command our most here of the regiment. His relatives command our most here felt sympathy, but it is their consolation to know he died the noblest of deaths, under the flag of his country. I am just going to guard mount, and therefore am comam just going to guard mount, and therefore am cou-celled to close, feeling assured that you will fitly repo-

ent the regiment. I am sincerely yours,
ANDREW T. McELYNOLDS, Colonet,
Commanding First New York caval y
Lieutenant Hidden will be buried on Sunday, alth

WHERE ARE THE REBELS IN VIRGINIA? IMPORTANT STRATEGIC MOVEMENTS OF THE RESEL GENERALS. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HIRALD.

bank of the Rappahannock river, from Port Royal up to Fredericksburg, thence along the South bank of the river up as far as the junction of the Rapidan with the North Fork of the Rappahannock, thence along the Rapidan as far as the base of the Blue Ledge Mountain.

The country immediately south of the north course just marked out is strikingly like that on the south side of the Potomac above Georgetown, very hilly—both wild, deep ravines; particularly is this the case for some eight miles below Fredericksburg, all the way up to the base of the mountain ridge. There is a wooden bridge at Fredericks-burg leading over the Rappahannock and the county of Stafford, and one at the village of Falmouth, which is in Stafford county, leading over the river in the county of Spottaylvania. Falmouth is a mile above Fredericksburg. and there are but three fords in the river between Frede ricksburg and the mountain; one at the Wilderness, which is about a mile from the Rapidan; another where the railroad crosses, and a third about Orange Court At the breaking out of the robellion it was a matter of serious discussion by Beauregard, Lee and Johnston whether this should not be the line of fortieation instead of Bull run and Manassas. The Manassas Railroad, bringing provisions from the valley, cannot them to select Bull run, the Rapidan and Rappahannoc being made strong by extensive military engineering in the meantime. There cannot be less than one hu and eighty thousand men strong along this line of fortifi-cation, between Port Royal and the base of the mountains The river is deep and narrow below Fredericksburg— 160 yards wide and fifteen feet deep. Above Fredericks nock begin, and extend all the way to the source. banks are rugged, broken and precipitous, and covered with the original growth of timber. The river here is deep and rapid, being at times—in the spring and early summer—as much as thirty feet, sweeping the oridges way at Falmouth and Fredericksburg, as has been case twice during the last twelve months. Upwards of twenty thousand men have been at Fredericksburg since the 10th of May, 1861, and laboring men have been at work on various fortifications all along the river bank for months past. This line of defence was begun autorior to the fortifications along Bull run, and was destined as a sort of cover in case of defeat at Bull run.

The swampy country of the Matapony, east of the unction of the Mat, the Ta, the Po and the Ny, and indicated by a line reaching from Port Royal Louisville, thence down the Matapony to the Pamunky and the York rivers, form the extended line of fight from the mountain to the bay. The abandonment of the whole Potomac and the Rappahannock, below Royal, is because they are untenable on account of the ready approach of boats and being easily outflanked by a force reaching them there. The country is the best possible one for defence along the whole Atlantic slove.